

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
DALLAS DIVISION**

KEVIN DEON MEDLOCK, #14049787,	§	
Petitioner,	§	
	§	
v.	§	Civil No. 3:16-CV-1496-B-BK
	§	
COUNTY OF DALLAS AND	§	
STATE OF TEXAS,	§	
Respondents.	§	

**FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION
OF THE UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE**

Pursuant to [28 U.S.C. § 636\(b\)](#) and *Special Order 3*, the *pro se* federal petition for writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2254 was automatically referred to the United States Magistrate Judge. For the reasons that follow, it is recommended that the petition be dismissed for failure to exhaust state court remedies.

I. BACKGROUND

On May 9, 2016, Petitioner was convicted of unlawful possession of marijuana in a drug-free zone and was sentenced to four years' imprisonment. *See State v. Medlock*, No. F14-57976 (363d Jud. Dist. Ct., Dallas Cnty., Tex. May 9, 2016)¹; [Doc. 3 at 2](#). Petitioner admits he neither appealed nor sought state habeas relief. [Doc. 3 at 3-4](#). In this federal action, filed June 6, 2016, Petitioner alleges ineffective assistance of counsel, denial of a jury trial, and judicial misconduct. [Doc. 3 at 6](#).

II. ANALYSIS

A state prisoner must exhaust all available state-court remedies before a federal court will

¹ The docket sheet can be accessed by entering the case number at <http://courtecom.dallascounty.org/pav/> (last visited June 18, 2016).

consider the merits of his habeas claims. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 2254(b) and (c); *Rhines v. Weber*, 544 U.S. 269, 274 (2005). The exhaustion requirement is designed to “protect the state court’s role in the enforcement of federal law and prevent the disruption of state judicial proceedings.” *Rose v. Lundy*, 455 U.S. 509, 518 (1982). Exhaustion of state-court remedies “is satisfied when the substance of the federal habeas claim has been fairly presented to the highest state court.” *Morris v. Dretke*, 379 F.3d 199, 204 (5th Cir. 2004) (quoting *Mercadel v. Cain*, 179 F.3d 271, 275 (5th Cir. 1999)). A Texas prisoner may satisfy that requirement by presenting both the factual and legal substance of his claims to the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals in a petition for discretionary review or in an application for a state writ of habeas corpus under Article 11.07 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure. *Whitehead v. Johnson*, 157 F.3d 384, 387 (5th Cir. 1998).

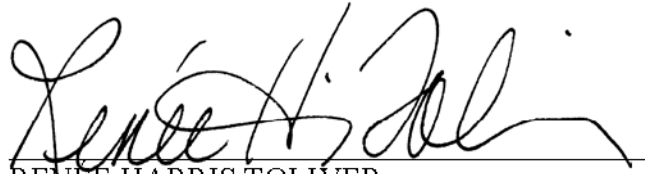
Petitioner has not satisfied the exhaustion requirement. A review of his petition and the state courts’ docket sheets (available online) confirms that he filed neither a direct appeal nor a state habeas application challenging his conviction.² *Doc. 3 at 3-4*. Therefore, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals has not had an opportunity to consider Petitioner’s claims and, consequently, they remain unexhausted.

² The Dallas County District Court’s docket sheets are available by entering the case number at <http://courtecom.dallascounty.org/pav/> (last visited June 18, 2016). Texas Court of Criminal Appeals’ docket sheets are available by entering the case number at <http://www.search.txcourts.gov/CaseSearch.aspx?coa=coscca&s=c> (last visited June 18, 2016).

III. RECOMMENDATION

For the foregoing reasons, it is recommended that the petition for writ of habeas corpus be **DISMISSED WITHOUT PREJUDICE** for failure to exhaust state court remedies. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 2254(b) and (c).³

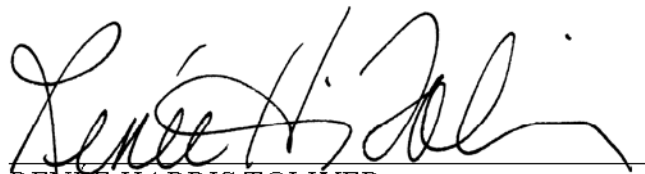
SIGNED June 18, 2016.



RENEE HARRIS TOLIVER
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SERVICE AND NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL/OBJECT

A copy of this report and recommendation will be served on all parties in the manner provided by law. Any party who objects to any part of this report and recommendation must file specific written objections within 14 days after being served with a copy. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1); *FED. R. CIV. P. 72(b)*. In order to be specific, an objection must identify the specific finding or recommendation to which objection is made, state the basis for the objection, and specify the place in the magistrate judge's report and recommendation where the disputed determination is found. An objection that merely incorporates by reference or refers to the briefing before the magistrate judge is not specific. Failure to file specific written objections will bar the aggrieved party from appealing the factual findings and legal conclusions of the magistrate judge that are accepted or adopted by the district court, except upon grounds of plain error. *See Douglass v. United Services Automobile Ass'n*, 79 F.3d 1415, 1417 (5th Cir. 1996).



RENEE HARRIS TOLIVER
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

³ Petitioner is cautioned that the 1996 amendments to the habeas corpus statute impose a one-year statute of limitations for filing habeas corpus petitions in federal court, *see* 28 U.S.C. § 2244(d), and that this provision is applicable to this petition as well as to any other petition that he may file in this court.